Deben Rural District Council.

Annual Report
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
AND
Senior Sanitary Inspector
FOR THE YEAR
1951

C O N T E N T S

The Chairman and Councillors,
Deben Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit my annual report for the year 1951.

In this report I have adhered fairly closely to my plan of previous years for the sake of continuity, but with each succeeding year it has been my hope to increase the detail in the report and so make it more generally useful.

Annual reports by Medical Officers of Health, in that they attempt to convey an overall picture of the state of the health and hygiene in the district, form one of the factors on which a district is judged by other Authorities. This is one of the reasons why I have endeavoured to make it as full as possible.

1951 was the first complete year during which the Public Health Department operated as a separate entity, and although not without occasional growing pains it has shown signs of justifying its purpose.

During the year, although the volume of work of the Department appears to be ever increasing, the available manpower to deal with it has remained unaltered and I would like to record my appreciation of the hard work and loyalty which the Public Health Staff has displayed during the year.

I would like also to record my gratitude to Councillors and Officials for the co-operation and trust which has been accorded once more to this Department.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

C.H. IMRIE.

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health.

C.H. IRRIE, T.D.,
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

A.F. WARRANDER,
M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., A.M.I.San.E.

Additional Sanitary Inspector.

R.T. W. BEDFORD,
C.R.S.I.

A. STATISTICS

General

Population (Registrar General's Estimate for Mid. 1951)	27,850
Area of District in Acres	109,974
Density of Population. Persons per acre	0.25
" " " " " square mile	162.8
Number of inhabited houses at 31.12.51.	8,374
Average number of persons per house	3.3
Rateable Value of District	£124,900
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£493

VITAL STATISTICS

Summary covering five years.

	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947
Population	27,850	27,030	26,140	25,130	24,410
Live Birth Rate per 1000 population	15.1	15.5	16.1	16.9	19.17
Still Birth Rate per 1000 population	0.18	0.14	.05	0.19	0.45
General Death Rate per 1000 population	11.5	12.6	11.32	10.06	12.7
Infantile Death Rate (under 1 year) per 1000 Live Births	32.25	33.41	23.64	22.3	25.6

To form any reasonably accurate estimate of the health of the inhabitants of an area it is necessary to have at ones disposal many facts and figures relating to the population under consideration. These are obtained from local sources and others from the Registrar General and the Minister of Health and form the raw material from which are produced the various numerical facts which we call statistics, Much information which we use depends on the National Census which was started in 1801 and is normally held at 10 year intervals. The year 1951 was of course a Census year and this afforded a welcome opportunity to check the estimates on which we had based our calculations for the intercensual years.

The population of the District has increased steadily since the end of the war and there is at present no reason to think that this growth has reached its maximum. The Density of the population throughout the District is low.

The Births with a total of 421 have been well up to the general average for England and Wales and show that the sex and age distribution are fairly representative of the country as a whole. It is noticeable that the steep fall in the Birth Rate after the post-war peak has now practically ceased and the Birth Rate has found a normal level.

Still Births with a total of 5 in the year represent a satisfactory Still Birth Rate.

Deaths from all causes totalled 322 representing a Death Rate of 11.5 per 1,000 population. This figure is appreciably lower than that for the previous year and compares well with the Rate for the whole country.

The Infantile Death Rate although slightly higher than the rate for England and Wales can be regarded as at a satisfactory level.

Among the causes of Death it will be noticed that Heart Disease and Vascular Disease of the Nervous System still take pride of place as in previous years.

Malignant disease in its various forms was the next most prevalent cause of death.

POPULATION

Registrar General's mid year estimates over 10 years:

1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942
27850	27030	26140	25130	24410	23910	22570	23090	22640	23030

LIVE BIRTHS

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	205	185	390
Illegitimate	17	14	31
			421

Live Birth Rate per 1000 population 15.1

" " " England and Wales 15.5

Live Birth Rate per 1000 population for 10 years:

1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942
15.1	15.5	16.1	16.9	19.17	18.4	16.4	17.8	14.8.	15.3

STILL BIRTHS

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	3	2	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-
			5

Still Birth Rate per 1000 Total Births	11.8
Still Birth Rate per 1000 population	0.180
Still Birth Rate per 1000 population for England and Wales	0.36

Still Birth Rate per 1000 population for 10 years:

1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942
0.180	0.148	0.05	0.19	0.45	0.75	0.35	0.40	0.31	0.60

DEATHS (ALL CAUSES)

Male	Female	Total
176	146	322

Death Rate	11.5
" " England and Wales	12.5

Death Rate per 1000 population for 10 years:

1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942
11.5	12.6	11.32	10.06	12.7	12.08	12.7	12.8	12.4	13.2

Age at Death

	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	30-	40-	50-	60-	70-	80-	90& over	Total
Male:	9	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	5	3	3	22	29	53	39	10	176
Female:	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	4	12	33	44	34	8	146

Deaths of Infants under 1 year:

All Infants per 1000 live births	33.25
" " " " " " England & Wales	29.6
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	33.3
Illegitimate " " " illegitimate " "	32.2

Causes of Death

Code No.		Male	Female	1951	1950
1.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	3	4	7	8
2.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	-	-	3
3.	Syphilitic diseases	1	-	1	-
4.	Diphtheria	-	-	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal Infections	1	-	1	1
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	1
8.	Measles	-	-	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm of stomach	5	3	8	7
11.	Malignant neoplasm of lung and bronchus	3	1	4	3
12.	Malignant neoplasm of breast	-	5	5	3
13.	Malignant neoplasm of uterus	-	3	3	1
14.	Other forms of malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	23	8	31	30
15.	Leukaemia and aleukaemia	1	-	1	-
16.	Diabetes	-	2	2	4
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	21	24	45	54
18.	Coronary disease, angina	23	12	35	43
19/20	Heart diseases	33	31	64	88
21.	Other diseases of circulatory system	2	2	4	7
22.	Influenza	3	4	7	1
23.	Pneumonia	7	2	9	15
24.	Bronchitis	14	7	21	10
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	2	-	2	4
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	2	3	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-	1	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-	1	4
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1	3
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth abortion	-	-	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	3	3	6	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	17	26	43	32
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	5	1	6	1
34.	All other accidents	3	5	8	8
35.	Suicide	2	1	3	6
36.	Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL	176	146	322	341

B. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

The general trend of Infectious Disease in England and Wales during the past 50 years has been, broadly speaking, and with certain exceptions, towards a decrease in most infections.

Not only has there been a decrease in the number of cases but there has been even more definitely a decrease in the severity and consequently in the Death Rate for many of the infections. The reason for this decline in incidence and severity are complex. There is no doubt that far better standards of hygiene, greater familiarity with the laws of health, adequate food and clothing and more enlightened handling of the sick, play their part but this is not the whole story. The history of the human race is to a great extent the history of a battle against disease with the advantage going now to one side and now to the other. The red hand of War has slain its millions, but they are as nothing compared with those who have been wiped out by epidemics. We must remember that it was only as recently as 1918-19 that we had what was probably the greatest and most deadly epidemic of all time when Influenza swept over the whole world leaving over twenty million dead in its trail. It must also be remembered that in communicable disease we are dealing with a race of living organisms which may be undergoing evolution at a much more rapid rate than we are, so that the possibility of fluctuations in attacking power and virulence may be anticipated with consequent epidemics at intervals.

One of the diseases which has increased within the last few years is Poliomyelitis. This infection has been well recognized for over half a century but until recently was comparatively rare in the British Isles. In 1947 however, an upsurge of infection produced many cases throughout the whole country but although the rate was increased many times it did not exceed two or three per thousand population.

Another type of disease which is potentially full of menace is Smallpox which has been introduced into the country from time to time recently. There are two forms of this disease, one comparatively mild with a low Death Rate and the other severe and taking a heavy toll of life. Most of the Smallpox in this country, during the last half century has been mild in character with a Death Rate of only three or four per thousand cases, but from time to time we have had outbreaks, mainly imported, of the virulent type with a Death Rate of one or two of every five cases.

The speed of modern travel has vastly increased the chance of the introduction of the infection from abroad. It is possible to become infected in, say India, and travel to England long before any sign of disease becomes manifest. This has been well illustrated by outbreaks of virulent Smallpox in Glasgow and Brighton recently due to importations. It is unfortunate that Smallpox is one of the most highly infectious of diseases so that any person bearing the infection is usually the originator of an outbreak, the spread being of course, made easier by the low state of vaccination of the population as a whole. It will be remembered that the National Health Service Act, 1946 put an end to compulsory vaccination and abolished the post of Public Vaccinator after it had been law for nearly 100 years.

Vaccination, done in infancy and repeated at suitable intervals is still undoubtedly the surest protection against this disease.

To the younger generation of practitioners Scarlet Fever is but a trivial manifestation of a streptococcal infection which is as a rule easily suppressed by the use of antibiotics. The picture was, however, vastly different for their older colleagues who knew Scarlet Fever twenty years ago as a most virulent infection which was only too frequently lethal. In a large proportion of cases some definite morbidity followed an attack and probably the commonest of these unpleasant sequelae was a middle ear infection which often involved the mastoid.

The reason for this change in the mode of attack is of great interest but extremely baffling. It is suggested that it may be due to the use of the antibiotics but although there is no doubt that these substances are potent enemies of the streptococcus the change in the type of attack antidated the general introduction of antibiotics. It is probable therefore, that some more general factors are at work.

During 1951 in the Rural District there were 726 cases of notifiable disease reported.

The disease with the highest prevalence was Measles with 289 cases, but this however, represents a total approximately half of that for the previous year. In this connection I have in the past drawn attention to the cyclical nature of this complaint.

Whooping Cough is for some reason much more unpredictable than Measles and tends to recur irregularly in epidemic form. 1951 showed a higher attack rate than any previous year recorded.

In January an outbreak of Dysentery which had originated in the County Borough of Ipswich around Christmas 1950, spread into the Rural District, the infecting organism being Bact. Dysenteriae Sonne. The disease varied from a mild diarrhoea of a few days duration to a severe and prostrating malady. Investigation was carried out in every case and also in conjunction with the Ipswich authorities but the results were disappointing. As far as the Rural District was concerned the connection with Ipswich was clear but sources of infection were by that time fairly well spread over the town so that the picture was confused.

In all there were 110 cases of Dysentery notified, the last being received in June.

During 1951 there were no cases of Food Poisoning reported in the District.

Diphtheria, as will be seen from the tables has been absent from the Debon Rural District during the past 5 years.

Monthly Notifications of Notifiable Disease

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
Whooping Cough	18	16	30	24	16	7	2	7	3	17	21	25	186
Measles	2	8	14	44	84	55	60	17	2	-	3	-	289
Pneumonia	13	25	6	9	13	8	2	1	2	4	1	8	92
Meningococcal Infection	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	4
Chicken Pox	-	-	2	-	3	-	2	1	-	-	1	-	9
Infective Hepatitis	2	-	4	10	6	2	1	-	1	2	2	-	30
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	3	50	35	14	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	110
													726

Notifiable Disease - Age Distribution.

	0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	10	44	44	77	8	-	3	-	-
Measles	7	45	58	140	21	13	5	-	-
Pneumonia	5	-	-	11	-	11	-	10	55
Jaundice	-	-	-	8	10	2	8	1	1
Chicken Pox	-	3	-	4	1	1	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-
Dysentery	1	7	13	21	16	11	12	18	11

TOTALS FOR PAST FIVE YEARS

	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947
Scarlet Fever	3	22	26	3	15
Whooping Cough	186	92	131	83	50
Measles	289	515	195	486	34
Pneumonia	92	55	57	32	29
Jaundice	30	16	9	9	10
Chicken Pox	9	1	4	-	-
Erysipelas	4	1	10	6	7
Meningococcal Infection	3	2	-	1	2
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	110	-	-	-	-
	726	704	432	620	147

C. IMMUNISATION

For hundreds of years Diphtheria has been alive and active in Western Europe, year by year taking its toll of the lives of the young.

Between 1861 and 1870 the yearly average Death Rate from Diphtheria among children under 15 years of age was well in excess of 1000 per million. As the nature of the infection became more generally recognized and as the general standards of hygiene and nursing improved, this Death Rate fell gradually. By 1921-30 it was around 300 per million and by 1940 to 49 it was around 100 per million of children under 15.

The fall was accelerated in the early years of the war by the general adoption of artificial immunisation throughout the country. By 1946 the Diphtheria Death Rate under 15 had fallen to around 40, and in 1950 to 4 per million.

More or less parallel with the decline in mortality there has been a fall in the incidence of the disease throughout the country. The following tables demonstrates the regularity and extent of this change,

Diphtheria Cases Notified.

Year	England and Wales	Year	England and Wales
1944	23,199	1948	3,575
1945	18,596	1949	1,890
1946	11,986	1950	962
1947	5,609	1951	699

While it cannot be claimed that this dramatic fall in mortality and morbidity from diphtheria is entirely due to any one factor, there can be no doubt that the policy in the past of rigorous isolation and neutralisation of each source of infection as it was discovered has borne fruit. This policy however, although effective up to a point, did not legislate for undiscovered sources of infection and was therefore bound to allow of the appearances of occasional outbreaks.

The theory of artificially raising the resistance of the community against the disease only became a reality early in the war when the immunisation campaigns were instituted. The results of these campaigns, although they did not gain 100% acceptance from the population were so striking that Diphtheria has virtually ceased to be a factor in the community. This result must not however lull us into complacency because in conferring an artificial protection we have removed all chance of the children gaining a natural immunity by contact with sub-infective doses of the disease, and if the immunisation should from any reason fall below a certain level, there is every chance of the recrudescence of Diphtheria.

To protect a community against epidemic Diphtheria it is necessary to have a certain percentage of the members immune to the Disease. It has been calculated that if a maximum of 3 children out of every 4 are immunised we can fairly safely regard the community as being protected.

Immunisation Statistics for Deben Rural District.

	1951	1950
Number of preschool children immunised	1070	1073
Total number of children immunised	3585	3810
Percentage of preschool children immunised	50.33	48.3
Percentage of all children immunised	61.57	62.4
"Booster" doses	177	175

It will be observed from the above table that the already low percentage of all children immunised in 1950 had by 1951 fallen still further although not to any great extent. It is, however, to be noted that the percentage of preschool children being immunised has increased slightly so that if this increase could be sustained in the coming year the position should improve.

Much public interest and anxiety has been aroused by various statements which have appeared in the press and elsewhere suggesting that there is a casual relationship between prophylactic injections and poliomyelitis. A considerable amount of investigation has been conducted on this subject by the Medical Research Council and briefly the position may be summarised as follows.

The small amount of injury and irritation which is inflicted at immunisation seems, if the child becomes infected with poliomyelitis within a short time, to determine the onset and site of paralysis. This determining effect however, is not confined to immunising injections and is produced by other minor injuries and excessive strains such as are sustained in some of the more vigorous games. It is probable however, that this effect is only produced when a person becomes infected within a month of the injection or injury.

It is regarded as expedient to discontinue immunisation during any period of undue prevalence of Poliomyelitis, according to the advice of the Ministry of Health. It must be emphasized however, that there is no evidence that immunisation causes Polimyelitis.

D. TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year the number of cases of Tuberculosis on the register rose from 126 to 135. This small increase does not appear to be significant. It will be noticed that the number of new cases (19) compares well with 21 in the previous year, also that there were 10 deaths in 1951 compared with 11 in 1950.

Of the 19 new cases no less than 5 were below the age of 15 and of these, 4 were due to Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis,

With regard to age, it will be observed that adults of both sexes in the prime of life represented the largest proportion in the Pulmonary group.

Tuberculosis, in spite of the immense efforts that have been, and are being made to control it, remains one of our greatest problems. Medically it is a disease which is probably more difficult to detect at an early stage than any other common infection, and once it becomes obvious it is only too often difficult to treat successfully. Sociologically and economically Tuberculosis is an even greater problem.

The long drawn-out course of months, or even years, which is run by a case imposes on the economic life and structure of the family a strain which leads almost inevitably to some lowering of the living standards especially when the victim is the bread-winner of the household. Even when the disease at length becomes arrested and health is recovered the patient only too often finds that his employment has become unsuitable for him in one way or another and he has to start to learn a fresh trade.

In the past, efforts at control have been concerned mainly with the removal of the patient for isolation and treatment and the observation of contacts. Up to a point this was satisfactory but it did not go far enough. More positive action was necessary. The recent introduction of B.C.G. - a vaccine which was first elaborated over a quarter of a century ago and has been used successfully in Scandinavia for many years, should have a beneficial effect in protecting those in danger of infection.

Early diagnosis has been greatly facilitated by the increasing use of Mass Miniature Radiography. This measure has great possibilities and will undoubtedly play a big part in the campaign against Tuberculosis.

One reservoir of infection which has so far resisted complete eradication is in our milk supply. There can be no doubt that Tuberculosis still occurrs from time to time among milk herds. Fortunately it is not frequent but the fact that it does occur is important. I would refer to the section of this report on milk for a further discussion of this point.

The problem of Tuberculosis will not be an easy one to solve. I am convinced, however, that the answer will be more in the region of prevention than of cure. Improvement of living facilities, reduction of overcrowding, adequate food and fresh air and healthy surroundings generally at work and in the home will do more to stamp out this dreadful scourge than will all the latest methods of treating manifest disease.

Notifiable Disease - Tuberculosis.

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Number on Register on January 1st, 1951.	47	25	30	24	126
Number notified during the year	4	9	4	2	19
Number restored to register after removal in a previous period	-	-	-	1	1
Number added otherwise than by notification	4	8	2	1	15
Number removed from register during the year	10	9	5	2	26
Number remaining on 31st December, 1951.	45	33	31	26	135

Analyses of Notifications

Cases Notified

Pulmonary

	0-1	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	Over 65	Total
Male:	-	-	1	2	2	1	2	-	1	9
Female:	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	4
	-	-	1	2	4	1	4	-	1	13

Non-Pulmonary

	0-1	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	Over 65	Total
Male:	-	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	4
Female:	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
	-	1	3	-	1	1	-	-	-	6

Occupation of cases added to Register.

	Primary	Otherwise
Baker's Roundsman	-	1
Optician	-	1
Housewife	4	5
Maintenance Worker	1	-
Domestic Servant	1	-
Farm Labourer	1	-
Gardeners Labourer	1	-
Nurse	1	1
Publican	-	1
Motor Mechanic	1	-
Steel Erectors Mate	-	1
Secretary	1	-
School Child	4	-
Infant	1	1
Unknown	3	5
Total:	19	16

Reasons for removal from Register.

Recovered	5
Left District	11
Died	10
	26

Analyses of Non-Pulmonary Cases:-

	M.	F.
Glands	4	2
Peritoneum	1	-
Bones	1	2
	6	4

Deaths during the year.

Pulmonary

	0-1	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	Over 65	Total
Male:	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	1	-	5
Female:	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	1	4
	-	-	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	9

Non-Pulmonary

	0-1	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	Over 65	Total
Male:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Female:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1

The Death Rate for Tuberculosis in Deben for 1951 was 0.35 per 1000 population.

The figure for England and Wales was 0.31 per 1000.

A comparison with the statistics for the previous 10 years:-

	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941
Number added to register	35	31	19	34	32	18	23	25	27	32
Death from Tuberculosis	11	2	11	13	13	4	9	7	10	5
Death Rate (Tuberculosis) per 1000 population	0.46	0.06	0.43	0.53	0.54	0.17	0.39	0.31	0.43	0.21

E. HOUSING.

As I have dealt at some length in previous reports with the problem of housing in this District I will confine myself to mentioning some of the salient features of the question.

(1) The need for houses, particularly for those of moderate means still continues to be acute although the number of houses which were completed during the year in this District was much greater than in the previous period.

(2) An increasing number of people complain that the rents charged for Council Houses can be ill afforded at present wage levels.

(3) Landlords are finding that the fixed statutory rents of houses in many cases will not cover dilapidation with the consequence that the standard of the rent-restricted houses in general is depreciating.

(4) Overcrowding except in isolated cases does not appear to be a general problem.

(5) The general policy in the past with regard to housing defects has been to encourage the preservation of the house by repairs and general rehabilitation. This is, of course, a short term policy and will have to be revised soon if we are not to be faced with enormous accumulations of substandard houses.

Hutted Camps.

I would refer to my reports of 1949 and 1950 for a general discussion of the problem of these huts which with each succeeding year are becoming less and less able to resist the invasion of the elements.

The position at the end of the year is as follows:-

Camp.	Approved for.	Expires.	Huts in use.	Closed or Demolished
Nacton	5 years	1951	22	5
Brightwell	5 years	1953	17	-
Dobach	5 years	1953	9	-
Ufford Park	10 years	1957	52	One temporary out of use
Trimley	10 years	1958	22	-do-

Statistics for 1951.

Number of inhabited houses in the District at 31.12.51.	8374
Average number of persons per house	3.3
During 1951 number of new houses completed by Local Authority	62
Dwellings converted or otherwise rendered habitable by Local Authority	Nil
Private buildings including conversions	41
The total number of houses in the district increased during the year by	103

F. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Public Health Administration in this country started some 100 years ago and for long battled alone in the field as an organized combatant against disease. Recent changes however, culminating in the National Health Service Act, 1946, have materially altered the position. Public Health now forms but one of the three legs of a tripod, the remainder being the Hospital Service and the General Practitioner Service which have both become highly organized.

The functions of the Public Health Service have not altered materially since the Act except that many of its powers and responsibilities which were on the margin of preventitive medicine have been assumed by other bodies. The effect of this change has been to divorce the curative side entirely from the preventitive, and while on the face of it this may seem to be a logical move, it is one which will inevitably lower the standards of Public Health as practical knowledge of the habits, appearance and current changes in disease are essential to us in our struggle against ill health. It is not enough that a man should have a medical education; he must be able to keep abreast of the latest advances and to do this by reading is not satisfactory.

The County Council is the Local Health Authority under the relevant Acts and the division of responsibility between that body and the County District follows a somewhat arbitrary line. Roughly, however, it may be said that the County Council is responsible for the portions of the Public Health Service which are personal and individual while, in the main, the County District deals with those which are environmental.

The battle against disease is to my mind much more than being able to cure all ills by some panacea with a complicated name. It is a question of education of the people in the ways of hygiene and the creation of a positive concept of health, which is not merely the absence of disease.

If more of the time, money and brainpower, which are at the moment devoted to the treatment of established disease were devoted to the prevention of disease, we should have more lasting benefit to the community.

G. WATER.

The Public Water supply in the District is derived from bores into the chalk, and from springs. The quality is good but the water is rather hard and has a high iron content.

In forty of the sixty-five parishes in the District there is a public mains water supply. In the remainder the supply is derived from private wells or bores.

The bulk of the supply comes from the Deben R.D.C. Waterworks but the following parishes have supplies from public undertakings outside the District:- Ipswich Waterworks supplies properties in Foxhall, Nacton, Purdis Farm and Westerfield; the Felixstowe Water Company supplies part of Foxhall, Kirton, Trimley St. Mary and Trimley St. Martin; the Woodbridge Waterworks supplies the parish of Melton.

During the year 106 extensions were made direct to houses, 8 standpipes were installed and 30 premises were supplied by Meter.

Samples from wells and private bores have been examined for Bacteriological Contamination with the following results:-

	Public Supply	Private
Number of samples	16	24
Satisfactory	13	8
Unsatisfactory	3	16

Extension of Water Mains.

North-eastern and South-eastern Regional Scheme.

The Pettistree pumping station is nearing completion. About 16 miles of mains have been laid in the parishes of Campsea Ashe, Blaxhall, Tunstall and Rendlesham. The link main to the proposed Pettistree tower is being laid. The mains cannot be used until the water towers have been built, and the construction of these is held up by the shortage of steel for reinforcement.

Western Regional Scheme.

Extensions totalling 1½ miles have been laid in the parish of Martlesham, The scheme for the remainder of the area i.e. for Great and Little Bealings and Playford, has been submitted to and approved by the County Council, and a local investigation has been held by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Felixstowe Water Company Area.

Extensions within the Statutory Area have been completed during the year in the parishes of Bucklesham, Kirton and Falkenham (4 miles). Extensions to areas outside the Statutory Area have also been completed in the parishes of Hemley, Waldringfield and Nacton (Shepherd & Dog) (5 miles).

Clopton - Monewden.

The 3 mile agricultural extension between Clopton and Monewden has been completed.

MAINS WATER SUPPLY BY PARISHES.

Parish	Direct to houses	Estimated population	By Standpipe	Estimated population	By Meter
		Deben R.D.C. Waterworks.			
Boulge	4	13	10	33	1
Lt. Bealings	-	-	-	-	1
Bredfield	37	122	48	158	20
Brightwell	1	3	-	-	3
Bromeswell	-	-	10	33	-
Burgh	18	59	24	79	10
Charsfield	35	115	45	148	17
Clopton	32	105	31	102	21
Cretingham	8	26	19	62	14
Culpho	3	10	1	3	3
Dallinghoo	25	82	13	43	21
Debach	22	73	9	29	2
Grundisburgh	104	343	85	280	22
Hasketon	29	96	27	89	16
Hoo	6	20	11	36	3
Kesgrave	411	1356	6	20	20
Levington	9	30	11	36	5
Martlesham	34	112	7	23	12
Melton	2	6	5	16	1
Monewden	4	13	12	39	12
Nacton	7	32	-	-	1
Orford	1	3	-	-	-
Otley	68	224	84	277	27
Pettistree	12	39	3	10	15
Playford	2	6	1	3	1
Purdis Farm	51	168	-	-	-
Rushmere	421	1389	32	105	37
Sutton	2	6	-	-	1
Swilland	9	30	31	102	9
Tuddenham	31	102	23	76	10
Ufford	111	366	24	79	8
Waldringfield	22	72	5	16	6
Westerfield	1	3	2	7	-
Wickham Market	258	848	78	257	24
Witnesham	61	201	48	158	16
	1841		705		359

(Water contd.)

Parish	Direct to houses	Estimated population	By Standpipe	Estimated population	By Meter
		Ipswich Waterworks			
Foxhall	5	16	-	-	2
Nacton	213	703	-	-	8
Purdis Farm	4	13	-	-	-
Westerfield	24	79	-	-	1
	246	811	-	-	11
		Felixstowe Waterworks.			
Trimley St. Mary	230	726	-	-	-
Trimley St. Martin	210	693	-	-	-
Bucklesham	4	13	-	-	-
Foxhall	8	26	-	-	-
	442	1458	-	-	-
		Woodbridge Waterworks.			
Melton	340	1122	-	-	17

Chemical Analysis of the Public Supply (2 samples)
(The Chemical results are stated in parts per million)

	No. 1 Bore	Tuddenham Spring Supply
Ammoniacal nitrogen	0.04	trace
Albuminoid nitrogen	0.01	0.07
Nitrate nitrogen	Nil	7.6
Nitrite nitrogen	Nil	Nil
Chlorine as chlorides	70.0	26.0
Oxygen absorbed (4 hr. 27°C.)	Nil	0.47
Hardness as $CaCO_3$:		
Total	396 = 28° Clark	368 = 26° Clark
Carbonate (temporary)	266	248
Non-carbonate (permanent)	130	120
Alkalinity as $CaCO_3$	326	278
Free carbon dioxide	41.0	35.0
Total solids (at 180° C.)	570	490
Metals in solution - Iron	0.05	0.02
Total Iron	0.88	0.08

H. REFUSE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The arrangements for refuse disposal are largely as described in previous reports, Controlled Tipping being the method employed.

In two parishes there are in operation general systems of sewerage and sewage disposal plants. These are in Wickham Market and Trimley St. Mary.

In the parishes of Grundisburgh and Bucklesham sewage disposal plants were erected during the year to deal with the effluent from Council Houses.

It is with regret that I have to record once again that the Sewage Scheme for the parish of Melton has made no progress. This is a much needed utility for a growing parish and it is to be hoped that it will soon be put in hand.

I. ACTION UNDER VARIOUS ACTSAND REGULATIONS

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

During the year information was received from the Food and Drugs Authority that Milk retailed by certain Dairies was found to contain Brucella Organisms. 10 cases were reported which included a case of Brucella Melitensis. One case of Tubercle Tuberculosis was also reported from an undesignated herd.

Only in the case of the Tubercular Infection was it found necessary to issue an order under these regulations and this was withdrawn 3 months later on evidence being received of the herd being clear.

Four other Notices were also withdrawn during the year which had been served in 1950.

The Medical Research Council has been carrying out Research into Q. fever during the year and a number of milk samples from herds in East Suffolk were sent to Cambridge. 16 samples taken in the Debon District all proved to be negative.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

No action under Section 49 was considered necessary.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Inspection of Factories

Factories with power	71
Factories without power	16
Number of inspections made	78

Inspection of Factories (contd.)

Defects found and remedied:-

Want of cleanliness	1
Sanitary Conveniences:-	
Insufficient	3
Defective	11
Other Defects	12

J. NEW LEGISLATION

The Public Health (Leprosy) Regulations, 1951, came into force on 22nd June, 1951. These Regulations require a Medical Practitioner who is attending, or called to visit, a person suffering from Leprosy to notify the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health of the case by sending him a Certificate of Notification.

On the 1st August, 1951, the Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations, 1951, came into operation. These replace regulations which have been in force previously. They continue the effect of those Regulations making Puerperal Pyrexia a notifiable disease, with slight modifications including a revised definition of Puerperal Pyrexia which the administration of the replaced regulations has shown to be necessary.

The Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951, also came into operation on the 1st August, 1951, and is dealt with fully by the Senior Sanitary Inspector in his report.

Dogs in Food Shops.

On the suggestion of the Minister of Health the Council authorised in November the Medical Officer of Health to issue to food premises notices advising the public against taking dogs into food premises.

REPORT BY

THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

ON THE

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1951

Senior Sanitary Inspector

A.F. WARRANDER,
M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., A.M.I.[illegible]E.

Additional Sanitary Inspector

R.T.V. BEDFORD,
C.R.S.I.

Melton Hill,
Woodbridge.

September, 1952.

In presenting this, my second annual report, I have endeavoured to indicate the ramifications of the work of my Department in its first complete year as a separate unit.

As ignorance of the functions of the Sanitary Inspector is common to both the man in the street and the learned professions, it would appear that some of the fault must lie in the designation of the office. On the other hand the reason may be indicative of the age of speed in which we now live in so far as it is an excuse for accepting "face value" rather than pausing to think and query. There is no gain saying the fact that the adjective "Sanitary" conveys, in this country at least, the picture of drains and their accompanying appendages. Although, admittedly experts in this branch of Public Health engineering, it will be seen from the following pages that this aspect of our duties is a relatively minor one. The office is a statutory one, with wide powers, to be used for the common good of mankind. Not as a "snooper" waiting to drag some offender through the courts, but rather as an adviser and a friend. It is only on these lines that improvement in the environment of the community can be enhanced.

HOUSING.

It is safe to say that this subject is the one which is, and has been uppermost in the minds of the public during the immediate past years. So far, all the efforts have been concentrated towards providing new houses. Although it is proper that this should have been so, it would appear that the time is fast coming when the whole situation must be reviewed at national level. The provision of housing units is still of paramount urgency and importance. Hutted Camps, requistioned mansions, caravans, are no answers to the problem, but, on the other hand, neither is the erection of houses which can only be let at a rent which is beyond the means of those who most need them. This aspect is already raising its ugly head, not only with pensioners but also in homes at the other end of the scale - the young family, The rent factor also introduces the problem from the angle of maintenance of existing homes and it is this angle which aggravates an already depressing situation by compelling families to continue to reside by choice in properties which ought to be swept away. Sheer economic necessity is also driving many families to drift to such accommodation. The problem of how to maintain property out of rents controlled under the Rent Restrictions Act is becoming acute. It is no exaggeration to say that even in this District there are many houses which are rapidly reaching the stage when they must be placed in Category 5 - fit only for demolition - because of the lack of funds to carry out even the minimum of repairs.

Add these to the properties which have already more than outlived their legitimate life, already earmarked for demolition, and it will be seen that instead of the situation improving, there will be a steady and numbing deterioration despite the valiant efforts which are now being made.

Slum clearance must again come into the picture and rents must be adjusted to prevent homes falling into decay. The whole matter is political dynamite but the solution is of such fundamental importance that it ought to be above party strife.

The following is a record of the work carried out in connection with housing repairs and the abatement of nuisances.

Housing Inspections (private dwellings)

Inspections made	281
Defects investigated	407
Overcrowding	3
Clearance Areas	13
Tenants quarrels	8
Local Authority enquiries	4
Pig keeping	33
Offensive accumulations	40

	Issued	Abated
Informal Notices	8	8
Statutory Notices	Nil	Nil

Analysis of works carried out

Roofs repaired	27
Chimney stacks repaired	18
Bargeboards renewed	9
Gutterings and R.W. pipes repaired or renewed	20
Ceilings repaired	9
Floors repaired	14
Wall plastering repaired	18
Windows repaired	18
Dampness remedied - floors and walls	11
Fireplaces repaired or renewed	9
Cooking ranges repaired or renewed	4
Coppers repaired or renewed	3
Staircases repaired	2
Earth closets renewed	3
Conversion of E.C. to W.C.	1
Well heads repaired	4
Pumps repaired or renewed	3
Drains cleaned or repaired	45
Refuse bins renewed	1
Drains tested	11
Burst water pipes	1
New walls	2
Yard paving	1

Amongst the sundry complaints dealt with were instances of :-

Obstructing the useage of a well
Obstruction of light by trees

COUNCIL HOUSES AND REQUISITIONED PROPERTY.

The investigation of applications for Council Houses prior to letting continues to be carried out, and in all 264 visits were made. In addition it is the practise of the Chairman of the Estates Committee to make personal enquiries in cases of doubt. This excellent procedure, although imposing an additional burden on the Chairman, ensures impartiality and fairness when lettings are being considered.

I have previously referred to the unsuitability of Army Huts as units of Housing and it is pleasing to record that a start has been made to demolish the huts at the Nacton Camp following the rehousing of the tenants. Three were demolished towards the end of the year.

In accordance with the tenancy agreements permission must be obtained by a tenant before lodgers are taken into a house and 18 requests were dealt with during the year.

There were ten visits in connection with the transfer of tenancies, and three regarding the exchange of tenants with another Authority.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

In last year's report I referred to pending developments in connection with one of the two Summer Camping Sites in the District. Early in the year a spate of applications was received from various parties in connection with the establishment of permanent Caravan Sites.

A special meeting of the Public Health Committee very carefully considered the situation and formulated a set of Standard Conditions for both permanent and temporary sites. Bearing in mind that a permanent Caravan Site is on a par with a housing site, I am sure that the standard conditions are both fair and reasonable.

These include, the type of, and spacing between Caravans, piped water supply, a W.C. in preference to a chemical closet for the sole use of each Caravan, waste water drainage to septic tanks, access road and footpaths to each caravan,

Where a sewer is available then W.C.'s must be installed.

I say quite emphatically that a caravan is no substitute for a House, and the establishment of permanent sites is purely a commercial venture. That young couples should feel that they are benefiting through being on their own at last is merely incidental, and is surely an indictment of the policy which permits the erection of NEW sub-standard housing units. Sub-standard housing must be wiped out and a caravan site without stringent control can very quickly produce the very worst of slum conditions.

Moveable Dwellings (contd.)

As a result of requiring compliance with the standard conditions the site referred to last year is to revert to a Summer or Camping Site and two others closed down. Three new proposals were abandoned - one following an appeal to the Ministry of Town and Country Planning - and one new permanent site was licensed. There are now 45 caravans on this site and thanks to the co-operation of the site owner, who lives on the site, conditions are good. The only drawback is that chemical closets are in use, and the owner has confided that he ought to have taken good advice and installed W.C's as had been the original intention.

The Council continue to give sympathetic consideration to individual applications for licences and 91 visits were paid to sites.

The "real" Caravanners are always with us and the three sites continue to be used at intervals. Complaints have been few and usually from persons who do not live in the vicinity. Nineteen visits were made.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Routine enquiries were carried out necessitating 108 visits and 15 dwelling houses were disinfected. The disinfection of bedding, clothing etc., is carried out by arrangement with the Ipswich County Borough. We aspire to having our own disinfection chamber and have attempted to adapt part of a hut at Ufford Park with conspicuous failure!

Disinfestations carried out:-

Ants	1
Cockroaches	4
Fleas	9
Flies	1
Mites	1
Wasps	9

GENERAL

Ditches

Complaints regarding offensive ditches require tactful handling, especially when the complainant is himself responsible for the nuisance. Strictly speaking no waste should enter any ditch without first passing through a filter. Eleven ditches were cleaned out and 52 visits made.

Schools.

An approach was made during the year to the East Suffolk Education Committee with a view to the conversion of pail closets into water closets at two schools in the District. Whilst appreciating the financial difficulties at this juncture I feel that when mains water is available, and the Committee itself propose to install drainage for other purposes and to re-erect closets, then these closets should be water closets.

When we hear of proposals to install shower baths, indoor swimming pools etc., in some town schools then I think there is good cause to ask that rural schools should be provided, as the opportunities arise, with the primary essentials of Public Health Hygiene. The village school now caters for all classes and many of the homes have modern drainage systems. To perpetuate an outmoded system seems to me to be a retrograde step.

It took many months after the availability of the mains to secure the provision of a standpipe supply to a school which had no water supply of its own.

Civil Defence.

The earmarking of premises to be used as emergency mortuaries took a lot of time and 77 visits. My grateful thanks to the various owners of private property for their consideration and co-operation.

Martlesham and Kesgrave Proposed Sewerage.

A survey in connection with the proposal to Sewer these parishes was carried out towards the end of the year and a total of 429 visits was made.

Water Supplies.

Spot sampling of the mains supplies throughout the District for both bacteriological and chemical examinations together with inspections and sampling of private wells entailed 153 visits.

Four wells were closed and the mains supply connected.

Three samples from the River Deben taken during the Summer months were found to be typical of a river water.

Pending the setting up of their own laboratory a six-weekly sampling of the Base Water supply was carried out on behalf of the U.S.A.F. and 12 samples were submitted for examination.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951.

This Act which came into force on the 1st November, 1951, requires the registration of all premises manufacturing articles of upholstery and bedding. Whilst it is a step in the right direction to securing the use of clean, wholesome fillings the great weakness of the Act is that premises which carry out remaking and reconditioning are excluded.

There is only one factory in the District.

INSPECTION OF WORKPLACES

Factories.

There were 78 routine inspections during the year under the Factories Act, 1937. On the whole, only minor defects were discovered.

As with housing repairs, informal action is appreciated by owners and occupiers and the defects are usually speedily rectified.

Details of the defects found were:-

Want of cleanliness	1
Sanitary conveniences:-	
Insufficient	3
Defective	11
Other defects	12

Outworkers.

Only three persons were on the register at the end of the year. In each case the work is glove making and is intermittent, and no unsatisfactory conditions were found.

Atmospheric Pollution.

One complaint was received during the year and visits to the premises concerned resulted in closer attention being paid to the firing of the boilers. The quality of the fuel supplied is undoubtedly a big contributing factor.

FOOD CONTROL.

Inspection of Food Premises.

The issue of the "Dog" notices was welcomed by all traders. The only criticism which has been encountered has been to the effect that a customer has been lost to the shop which insists upon the enforcing of the notice. A disappointing feature is that it is the customer who ought to know better who has taken umbrage. We are unable specifically to indite the dog, but I am certain that the majority of customers object to any dog, however aristocratic, being dumped on a food counter by any person, however aristocratic.

The following routine inspections were made:-

Fish and Chip Shops	10
Fish and Chip Vans	3
Butchers Shops	17
Butchers Vans	4
Bakeries	8
Bakers Vans	7
Wholesale warehouse	7
General Shops	63
Cafes	15
N.A.A.F.I.	1
Refreshment Stalls	4
Fish Shops	1
Fish Vans	2
Fruit Shop	1

Clean Food Byelaws.

One firm carried out the conversion of E.Cs. to W.C.s and provided wash basins with constant hotwater supply for both sexes on the staff.

Ice Cream.

There are no factories in the District and only one shop makes up the cold-mix supplied by a firm of national repute. Samples taken from this shop have been consistently good. The bulk of the Ice Cream sold in the shops is the wrapped product of the big national firms and the samples taken were all satisfactory. It is difficult to catch the Mobile Ice Cream Vans at the right time but the one sample taken was again satisfactory.

New registrations for the sale of Ice Cream totalled 5 and 29 visits were paid to others.

Cafes.

I am pleased to report that liaison bewteen the Food Office and ourselves continues with regard to the issue of catering licences. All applicants for a licence are required to secure a Certificate that I am satisfied as to the suitability of the premises before a licence can be granted. This serves the dual purpose of protecting the public on the one hand by ensuring that the necessary repairs and alterations are carried out before business commences, and by giving the applicant the opportunity to assess his commitments on the other hand.

Milk supplies.

Although our functions are now restricted the inspection of dairies continues to receive close attention and 37 visits were made. The need for constant vigilance in securing properly washed bottles was demonstrated on two occasions, dirty hand towels were replaced, and technical faults in the wording of capping discs pointed out.

Milk Infections (Animal)

Investigations were carried out in connection with six notifications of br. abortus and one of tuberculosis. The latter is the only case in which compensation under the Milk and Dairies Act has had to be paid.

Due to the overlapping of other interested Authorities and pressure of work at the Laboratory only three samples were submitted for biological examination. All were satisfactory.

Unsound Food.

The undermentioned foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

Pork	22lbs
Beef	18 "
Liver	11½ "
Corned Beef	46 "
Ham	106 "

Pork Pies	28	Fruit Salad	1 tin
Pork Brawn	125 tins	Peaches	1 "
Minced Beef Loaf	3 "	Pineapple Juice	2 "
Steak	1 "	Orange "	12 "
Jellied Veal	12 "	Pineapple "	1 "
Veal and Ham	1 "	Crushed Pineapple	2 "
Chicken & Ham	1 "	Jam	54 jars
Roast Chicken	1 "	Marmalade	4 "
Luncheon Meat	150 "	Lemon Curd	3 "
Bacon	6 lbs	Puddings	36 tins
Sausages	4 tins	Evaporated Milk	156 "
Sardines	36 "	Sweetened Milk	34 "
Herrings	3 "	Milk Whipping Compound	34 "
Salmon	8 "	Coffee	33 bottles
Pilchards	11 "	Cheese	524¾ lbs
Baked Beans	14 "	Processed Cheese	61 portions
Peas	122 "	Pickled Onions	1 jar
Carrots	9 "	Pickle	10 jars
Beetroot	35 "	Sauce	65 bottles
Tomatoes	19 "	Piccalilli	10 jars
Mixed Vegetables	34 "	Red Cabbage	3 "
Beef & Veg. Broth	1 "	Mayonnaize	204 "
Tomato Soup	1836 "	Date Paste	314 "
Vegetable Soup	150 "	Meat Tenderiser	408 boxes
Mockturtle "	1 "	Dried herbs	288 "
Vegetable Salad	2 "	Soup powder	1404 "
Apples	256 "	Gravy powder	1368 "
Plums	16 "	Shredded Wheat	1 "
Figs	16 "	Grapefruit	3 Tins
Pears	2 "	Greengages	4 "
Cherries	5 "	Raspberries	2 "
Bananas	91 "	Grapes	10 "
Orange Slices	46 "	Blackberries	2 "

Slaughter Houses

Slaughter House licences issued -	9
Inspections of premises	5
Slaughterman's licences issued	5

There is no Government Slaughterhouse in the District and only a very few self-supplier pigs were dealt with locally.

Knackers Yard.

The only yard in the District now functions from the new premises which were erected last year. Visits made 7.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Collection.

The Service was maintained as in the past by four Dennis Vehicles with the small Karrier in reserve for emergencies. A new vehicle was put into service in August to replace the oldest which had been in constant use since 1938. Salvageable waste continues to be collected and where possible is kept separate from the other refuse during transport. The delay in the collection is compensated by the saving of labour in recovery at the other end and also ensures that materials like paper and rags are kept clean.

Disposal.

The tip at Bromeswell which has been in use since 1943 was closed in August, and a weeks work with a bulldozer left the site levelled and tidy. Considerable difficulty is being experienced in obtaining material to cover over and finish the tip.

An offer of a new site not far further from the above tip was accepted. Approval to the filling in had been granted by the Planning Authorities, so that the new arrangement is to our mutual advantage. The Council is to provide the labour and maintain the site in accordance with Controlled Tipping practise, the owner provides the site and the top covering material.

Salvage.

I mentioned in last year's report that the prices for waste paper, which constitutes the basis of our salvage revenue, were rising. They certainly did as the following figures show:-

Year	Weight	Value
1946	47 tons	£339
1947	45 tons	£393
1948	68 tons	£465
1949	80 tons	£490
1950	98 tons	£585
1951	93 tons	£1297

Whilst the drop in the tonnage recovered makes the financial return more spectacular I consider the total to be satisfactory. The "barrow boys" were quickly on the scene, as also were numerous other organisations, and we were left far behind in the National Competition.

The prices paid were panic prices, and bore no relation to facts or reason.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING.

The two vehicles continue to be fully employed. So much so, that at certain times of the year the demands on the service give cause for anxiety. An article published in the "Debon Bulletin" seemed to have some effect for a short period afterwards.

NIGHTSOIL COLLECTIONS.

A collection is made in one Urban parish only. I was hopeful that the long proposed sewering of the parish concerned would materialize and soon bring it to an end. I do not like this method of disposal, and it was with some concern that I learned that one of our new housing sites had reverted to pail closets. As I have stated elsewhere in this report I consider this to be a retrograde step.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

Eight new licences were issued.

RODENT CONTROL.

This cinderella of the Public Health Services continues to function quietly and efficiently. The demand for treatment from the public is increasing, and the general attitude towards the service is changing from good natured tolerance to one of appreciation.

It cannot be said too often that rats are a menace to the community both directly as the carrier of disease, and indirectly by the colossal damage they do annually to buildings and materials.

Research has now produced what promises to be a most valuable addition to the stock of poisons. It is comparatively safe to use in relation to other animals and can be laid, so long as it is kept dry, at the first visit and then left for a fortnight without further attention. Our first experiences have been gratifying.

Number of visits to Private Dwellings	1681
" " " " Business Premises	232
" " " " Council Property	210
" " " " Agricultural Properties	183
Number of Private Dwellings found Infested	362
" " Business Premises " "	25
" " Council Properties " "	5
" " Agricultural Properties "	136
Number of Rats picked up after Treatment	941
" " Mice " " " "	120
Number of Major Infestations:-	
Private Dwellings	51
Business Premises	4
Council Properties	3
Agricultural Properties	4

Rodent Control (contd.)

Number of Minor Infestations:-	
Private Dwellings	311
Business Premises	21
Council Properties	2
Agricultural Properties	132
Number of Mice Infestations	16
Number of Properties Inspected:-	
Private Properties	2212
Business "	111
Council "	5
Agricultural"	183
Block Control Schemes	6

I wish to express my thanks to the members of the Council for their continued encouragement and to the members of the staff for their support during the year.

A.F. WARRANDER.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.